

We claim:

1. A system for removing a polyp from the body of a patient, said system comprising:

an endoscope suitable for performing an endoscopic  
5 procedure on the patient; and

a device for removing polyps, said device comprising:

a catheter having a proximal end and a distal end;

a cable trigger operatively connected to the proximal  
end of the catheter;

10 a pair of jaws extending out of the distal end of the  
catheter;

a snare cable routed through the pair of jaws and  
operatively connected to the cable trigger; and

15 a heating element disposed on at least one of the jaws  
and located between the pair of jaws; and

a source of power operably connected to the heating  
element;

wherein the device for removing polyps is sized and  
dimensioned for insertion into the endoscope.

20 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the heating element is  
selected from the group consisting of a nichrome wire heating  
element, a ceramic heating element, an RF heating element, a  
monopolar electrode heating element and a bipolar electrode  
heating element.

25 3. The system of claim 1 wherein:

the pair of jaws comprises a first jaw and a second jaw;  
the second jaw is rotatable relative to the first jaw; and  
the snare cable is operatively connected to the second jaw  
and runs from the second jaw to the first jaw and then to  
5 the cable trigger.

4. The system of claim 3 further comprising a silicone pad  
disposed on the grasping face of the second jaw.

5. A method of removing a polyp from the body of a patient,  
said method comprising the steps of:

10 providing a system for removing a polyp from the body of  
the patient, said system comprising:

an endoscope suitable for performing an endoscopic  
procedure on the patient; and

a device for removing polyps, said device comprising:

15 a catheter having a proximal end and a distal  
end;

a cable trigger operatively connected to the  
proximal end of the catheter;

20 a pair of jaws extending out of the distal end of  
the catheter;

a snare cable routed through the pair of jaws and  
operatively connected to the cable trigger; and

a heating element disposed on at least one of the  
jaws and located between the pair of jaws;

a source of power operably connected to the heating element;

wherein the device for removing polyps is sized and dimensioned for insertion into the endoscope;

5        inserting the endoscope into the body of the patient and locating the polyp with the endoscope;

inserting the device for removing polyps into the endoscope such that the distal end of the device for removing polyps is located in the vicinity where the polyp is  
10        located;

extending the snare cable to form a hoop sized and dimensioned to capture the polyp;

manipulating the hoop to capture the polyp;

activating the cable trigger to draw the snare cable  
15        proximally relative to the catheter and to close the hoop around the polyp;

pulling the snare cable proximally relative to the catheter to draw the polyp into position between the pair of jaws and to close the pair of jaws upon the polyp; and

20        supplying heating power to the heating element to sever the polyp from tissue surrounding the polyp.

6.    A method of removing a polyp from the body of a patient, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a device for removing polyps, said device  
25        comprising:

a catheter having a proximal end and a distal end;

a cable trigger operatively connected to the proximal end of the catheter;

a pair of jaws extending out of the distal end of the catheter;

5 a snare cable routed through the pair of jaws and operatively connected to the cable trigger; and

a heating element disposed on at least one of the jaws and located between the pair of jaws;

10 placing the distal end of the catheter in the proximity of the polyp;

pushing the snare cable distally relative to the catheter to open the pair of jaws relative to each other and form a hoop of snare cable extending from the distal end of the catheter;

15 manipulating the hoop to engage the polyp;

pulling the snare cable proximally relative to the catheter to draw the polyp into position between the pair of jaws and to close the pair of jaws upon the polyp; and

20 supplying heating power to the heating element to sever the polyp from tissue surrounding the polyp.